

ABSTRACT

Apparatus for use to check potatoes or similar items, the apparatus including a feeding device for advancing the potatoes in a plurality of rows, a conveying device adapted to receive the rows of potatoes from the feeding device and advancing them while maintaining the row structure, at least one camera with associated image processor for recording and evaluating each individual potato on the conveying device and a sorting device controlled by the image processor, the sorting device being adapted to sort the potatoes. The conveying device includes a plurality of substantially horizontal rollers, the axes of rotation of the rollers extending parallel to the advance direction of the potatoes, the rollers being rotatably mounted in a support frame and connected with a first driving device for rotating the rollers. The rollers are each independently additionally displaceable in parallel forwards and backwards in a substantially straight line extending in a vertical plane, the plane being the axis of rotation of each roller, and inclining upwards, seen in the advance direction, the rollers being connected with a second driving device adapted to confer a reciprocating oscillating movement to each roller along the line.